

APPENDIX C : METHODOLOGY

The methodology used for conducting this study was derived from the Congressional mandates of the 1998 Space Act, requirements from the statement of work, standard KPMG methodology, and suggestions adopted by KPMG based on meetings held with NASA during the study. Based on NASA recommendations, the Commercial Space Transportation Study (CSTS) was used as a framework from which to organize the focus of the research effort. The documentation collected focused on the topics of space technologies research, commercial microgravity or space-based research, non-space related industry information, and space-related literature of various types published from 1995 to present.

Materials initially provided by NASA were first reviewed for purposes of learning the overall history of the ISS program, microgravity research and NASA commercialization activities. Additional sources of documentation included:

- Federal government agencies
- State government agencies
- Industry associations
- Universities
- Private companies
- And individual space enthusiasts

During the course of the study, KPMG utilized an expert advisory panel, the CSVAT. The CSVAT met with the KPMG ISS Commercialization Study project team in Washington, D.C. on three occasions during the course of the study. The initial meeting was to get guidance and feedback on the format and direction of the study. The second meeting focused on discussions regarding preliminary findings, potential pathfinder projects, and a review of the market research reviewed up to that point. The third and final meeting was to discuss the final draft and resolve any outstanding issues.

KPMG would like to note that NASA HQ was not represented at these meetings, based upon our mutual agreement with NASA that their presence might limit the willingness of the CSVAT members to speak frankly about their views on the various topics under review. As a result, the meetings provided an excellent forum for open and honest discussion amongst the members of the CSVAT and KPMG regarding opportunities for commercialization as well as critical impediments, which hinder NASA and industry from realizing the goal of commercial utilization of the ISS.